Dear Forensic Colleagues,

The Webster University forensics program, the Missouri Omega chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, and the School of Communications invite you to the 19th Annual Gorlok Gala Forensic Tournament, to be held at Webster January 27-January 29, 2017. We will be offering the 11 AFA individual events, along with open, junior and novice divisions of NFA-LD and parliamentary debate. There will also be an open division of Public Forum debate. In addition, we are pleased to bring back duo improvisational pairs. We are committed to a comprehensive forensic experience. Towards that end, students may compete in both debate and individual events. *To accommodate the size of the tournament and promote efficiency, we do limit opportunities for cross-over between LD, public forum, and individual events.* We have worked, however, to insure that the days do not become laborious for those who choose to participate in only individual events or debate.

To help with planning and accommodating campus logistics, we ***must insist*** on meeting our ***Monday entry deadline. We have unique campus constraints that make the Monday deadline particularly imperative. WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT TURNING AWAY LATE ENTRANTS.***

We are pleased to have an excellent tabulation crew including: John Boyer (Lafayette College), Jessica Furgerson (Western Kentucky University), Ken Troyer (Sterling College), Robert Markstrom and CJ Hunt (McNeese State University), Nikki Freeman (University of Central Missouri), Phil Voigt (Gustavus Adolphus College), and Scott Jensen (Webster University).

There are several incentives to entice you into attending the Gorlok...

* Sunday events IN the hotel
* Our traditional pasta and salad bar Friday night, and our St. Louis Fare for Saturday lunch, featuring a collection of food unique to St. Louis, including toasted ravioli, White Castle burgers, Imo’s pizza, Ted Drew’s frozen custard, Fitz’s Root Beer, and more!
* A very nice continental breakfast Saturday
* A proverbial plethora of awards
* An opportunity to visit and play in St. Louis and the exciting Westport area

***We are also continuing two annual awards—a Webster Alumni Award and a Community Citizenship Award. Please see these descriptions in the invitation and consider submitting a nomination.***

Please contact us with any questions. We hope to see each of you in St. Louis this winter for the Gorlok Gala!

Sincerely,

Gina Jensen Tom Serfass MacLain Naumann

Director of Forensics Assistant Forensic Coach President

Tournament Director MO Omega Chapter of PKD

 **2017 Gorlok Gala Forensic Tournament Schedule**

Thursday, January 26

6:30 – 10:00 pm Early Registration—Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Plaza #1

Friday, January 27

 8:30 – 11:30 am Registration—Conference Room—University Center (Main Floor)

 9:30 Release of Debate Pairings (Rds 1 and 2)

10:00 Round 1, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum

11:00 Round 2, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum

12:15 Topic Announcement, Rounds 1 and 2 Parliamentary—Sunnen Lounge, UC

 1:00 Round 1, Parliamentary

 2:00 Round 2, Parliamentary

 3:00 Round 3, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum

 4:00 Topic Announcement, Round 3 Parliamentary—Sunnen Lounge, UC

 4:20 Round 3, Parliamentary

 5:30 Round 4. Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum

 5:45 ***Dinner—Pasta & Salad Bar, PROVIDED*** BY WEBSTER

 7:00 Topic Announcement, Round 4 Parliamentary—Sunnen Lounge, UC

 7:20 Round 4, Parliamentary

Saturday, January 28

 7:00 Individual Events-Only Registration & Continental Breakfast

 Sunnen Lounge—University Center (Main Floor)

 8:00 Extemp Draw—TBA

 8:15 Round 1, Individual Events “A”

 9:45 Round 1, Individual Events “B”

 Round 5, Lincoln-Douglas, Elimination Round 1, Public Forum

11:00 Extemp Draw

11:30 Round 2, Individual Events “A”

12:30 ***St. Louis FARE***, PROVIDED BY WEBSTER

 1:00 Topic Announcement, Round 5 Parliamentary—Sunnen Lounge, UC

 1:20 Round 5, Parliamentary

 2:30 Round 2, Individual Events “B”

 Round 6, Lincoln-Douglas, Elimination Round 1Public Forum

 4:00 Topic Announcement, Elimination Round 1 Parliamentary—Sunnen Lounge, UC

 4:20 Elimination Round 1, Parliamentary

 5:30 Extemp Draw

 5:45 Finals, Individual Events “A”

 7:15 Topic Announcement, Elimination Round 2 Parliamentary-Sunnen Lounge, UC

 7:35 Elimination Round 1, Lincoln-Douglas, Elimination Round 3, Public Forum

Sunday, January 29—***All Events to be Held at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel!***

 7:45 Extemp Draw—TBA

 8:00 Remaining Individual Events Finals

 Elimination Round 2, Lincoln-Douglas, Elimination Round 4 Public Forum

 9:30 Topic Announcement, Elimination Round 3 Parliamentary—General Lobby

 9:50 Elimination Round 2, Parliamentary

11:15 Awards—Plaza Ballroom

12:15 Elimination rounds will continue, beginning with parliamentary debate. Rounds for each format will run concurrently if and when no student is entered in both formats.

**General Tournament Notes**

Tournament Hotel

The Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet Hotel will serve as the tournament hotel. **All of Sunday’s tournament events** will be held in the hotel. The tournament rate is $89.00. The rate includes complimentary Internet in each room rented through the block.

For reservations, call (314) 878-1500 and ask for "Gorlok Gala" rates. Should you encounter problems, ask for Nancy, or call Gina Jensen at Webster. Our block will be released **Monday, January 9th! PLEASE make your reservations early! Rates may well skyrocket after this date! Earlier reservations will also alert us to any need to increase the block prior to its cut-off date.**

Awards

Awards will be presented to all students reaching elimination rounds--including duplicate awards for dramatic duo, improvisational pairs, public forum debate, and parliamentary debate. Pentathlon, debate speaker, and outstanding novice individual event awards will also be presented. Additionally, sweepstakes awards will be given to the top three teams in individual events, debate, and overall sweepstakes (a school must be entered in debate and individual events to be eligible for overall sweepstakes). Awards will also be given to the Pi Kappa Delta chapter and two-year school earning the most sweepstakes points.

MAFA Service Project

In conjunction with the Missouri Association of Forensics Activities Advocacy Project “ Uplifting Voices” we will be supporting the St. Louis Urban Debate League and help them lift their voices by collecting flow pads, printer paper, pens, timers, or other debate supplies. We will also take cash donations to give to the UDL to assist them in buying laptops and netbooks. The Urban Debate League provides an opportunity to St. Louis City schools to debate. They also provide supplies, meals during their events, and transportation to their students. Many UDL students have experienced a lot of success because of their time with the Urban Debate League.

Local Host Entries

Webster University may enter some events, although host entries will be very limited. Competing Webster students will be eligible for awards.

Sweepstakes

Points will be awarded to a school’s top three individual event entries per event and top six debate entries total (Lincoln-Douglas entries will count as half debate entries). ALL of a school's elimination round entries will count toward sweepstakes. The points system will be:

IEs 3-2-1 for a 1, 2 or 3 rank in preliminary rounds

1 for all semifinalists

6-5-4-3-2-1 for 1st through 6th or 7th in finals

Debate 7 points per win, up to 4 wins per team/LD entry

7 points per advancement to elimination rounds for teams and LD entries

Fees and Judging

The tournament fees schedule is...

Friday participation fee (per student/judge) $ 9.00

Saturday participation fee (per student/judge) $ 9.00

IE entries (including duos) $ 10.00

Parliamentary debate teams $ 60.00

Public Forum debate teams $ 50.00

Lincoln-Douglas entries $ 40.00

Uncovered IE entries $ 10.00 plus entry fee

Uncovered parliamentary debate teams $100.00 plus entry fee

Uncovered public forum debate teams $ 80.00 plus entry fee

Uncovered Lincoln-Douglas entries $ 80.00 plus entry fee

Changes at registration $ 25.00 per change

Dropped judge after Thursday, January 28th $100.00 per judge

One individual events judge will cover ten entries. One debate judge will cover two teams/L-D entries. A single judge may cover…

* two parliamentary teams &/or two NFA-LD entries **or** two public forum teams
* two NPDA teams &/or 10 IE entries
* two NPDA teams &/or two NFA-LD entries **or** public forum teams & 5 flight **A only** IE entries

For purposes of clarification one NPDA team will require three rounds of coverage since an odd number of preliminary rounds are being offered. A single judge may **not** cover both L-D/public forum and flight B individual event entries. Schools needing to hire a substantial number of judges should contact the tournament director before tournament week. PLEASE--we would rather have your judges.

**Special note regarding LD judges and uncovered LD entries…because of consistently having an overwhelming number of uncovered LD entries, we must insist at least half of any school’s LD entries are covered. We will turn away entries not meeting this request. For example, a school with 12 LD entries must provide at least three judges who are able to cover LD commitments; with only three judges we will not accept a 13th entry.**

Entry Deadlines and Instructions

This year’s Gorlok is using the tournament entry services at [www.forensictournament.net](http://www.forensictournament.net). The invitation, tournament notes, and tournament entry are all located at this site. Search for ***Webster University Gorlok Gala***. Schools not using this service in the past will need to enter a roster of students and judges prior to entering the tournament. This site will also allow schools to view the entire tournament entry. ***All schools must submit entries on*** [***www.forensictournament.net***](http://www.forensictournament.net)***. Entries will not be accepted in any other form.***

Fees are assessed at **6:00 pm Tuesday, January 24th.** Direct questions to Gina Jensen at jensen@webster.edu.

**Individual Events Notes**

Events/Flights

All 11 AFA-NIET events plus improvisational pairs will be offered in two flights.

Flight A--extemp, persuasive, impromptu, dramatic, poetry, improvisational pairs

Flight B--prose, informative, poi, duo, after-dinner, communication analysis

Rules

AFA rules will be followed for all events. Students should not enter material that has been used in competition before September 1, 2016.

Extemp topics will be taken from socio-political, international, and economic areas. Each round will be one of these three. In the instance that the tournament holds semifinals, final round topics will be **editorial cartoons**. For extemp draw, the only electronic access during draw will be pre-loaded resources; no live Internet access is allowed. No extemper will be allowed access to electricity in the draw room.

Students in impromptu will have a choice of two topics that will vary by round and section. Topics will be selected from philosophical quotations and song lyrics.

The event description for **improvisational pairs** is as follows:

Preparation time is three minutes. ***Preparation time is separate from performance time***. Performance time must

be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of six with a 30-second grace period. The judge should clarify

with the students before they begin how time signals will be communicated and must then give hand signals as the

contestants are performing to help them stay within the time limit. No make-up, costumes, props, or lighting are

permitted, but a table and/or two chairs may be used. Doors and walls are considered props and must not be used.

The scene must contain only two characters with equal sharing of dialogue. An introduction by one or both

students is **REQUIRED** to set the scene, and a resolution of the conflict must be evident at the end of the scene.

Excessive profanity, sexual innuendo, or excessive physicality (i.e. pushing, shoving, and striking) will not be

tolerated. Contestants are to remain outside of the room until it is their time to perform. Once they have finished

with their performance they must remain in the room until the round is complete.

Cross-Entering

Students may enter up to 3 events per flight. We are, however, committed to running a tournament that stays on time. Critics will be instructed to not wait beyond the allotted ending time for each round. A student may enter only two duos and two improvisational pairs. We will make efforts to accommodate multiple entered students in flight A with early speaking positions in extemp.

Students in Lincoln-Douglas may enter **only flight A individual events.** Students in public forum may **enter only one flight B individual event** and must compete in their individual event **first** if they advance to a conflicting elimination round. Students may not enter both Lincoln-Douglas and public forum debate.

Elimination Rounds

Semi-finals will be held in all events with 50 or more entries. Semi-final round brackets will be seeded into unbroken brackets. Final place finishes will be determined based on (1) majority of 1's, (2) ranks, (3) judges' preference, (4) points, and (5) seedings.

Pentathlon

In at attempt to reward diversity in competitive excellence, students must enter **a minimum of three events** and compete in **public address, limited preparation, and interpretation events** to be eligible for pentathlon. A maximum of five events will count toward a student's pentathlon score.

Novice Awards

The top novice in each AFA event will be given a special award. To be eligible, the student should be in his/her first collegiate year in the appropriate genre of event (public address, interpretation, or limited preparation).

***IMPORTANT IE JUDGING NOTE:*** In addition to the obligation of the final round in each flight, all judges are obligated for any semifinal rounds in either flight. Again, ***all individual event judges*** are obligated for final rounds, regardless of whether or not they are used in or qualify students for semi-final rounds.

**Debate Notes**

Divisions Defined

Any student may enter an open division. Junior division is open to students in their first four semesters of collegiate debate (of any kind). Novice division is open to students with less than two semesters of any debate at any level (high school or college).

NFA Lincoln-Douglas

An open, junior, and novice division of NFA Lincoln Douglas will be offered. Debates will use a 6-3-7-3-6-6-3 format with 4 minutes of preparation. The 2016-17 topic (Resolved: the United States Federal Government should substantially reduce the role of the United States Southern Command in Latin America). . All divisions will adhere to the NFA rules for Lincoln-Douglas debate.

Parliamentary

An open, junior, and novice division of NPDA debate will be offered. Parliamentary rounds will follow suggested ***NPDA*** guidelines except where our tournament invitation outlines alternative procedures and policies. In instances wherein NPDA rules are inconsistent with rules of other associations, NPDA rules will be enforced. We understand this will create circumstances in which this tournament is inconsistent with norms on other travel circuits. Because of the size of the tournament and limited room availability, there will not be assigned prep rooms. The 7-8-8-8-4-5 format will be followed with 20 minutes of pre-round preparation. An open, junior, and novice division of NPDA debate will be offered. Topics will be announced in a central chamber. ***VERY IMPORTANT…***we are committed to a comprehensive forensic experience, which can create tension between a central NPDA topic announcement and an efficient, on-time schedule. It is imperative that debaters respect the schedule so announcements can start on time. This means…

* a two minute grace period, meaning 22 minutes after topics are announced time begins for each debate
* teams not in their rooms, ready to debate, at the 22 minute point will be forfeited
* critics not in their rooms within 22 minutes of topic announcement have their top seeded team forfeited from that given round
* come immediately to topic announcement with time to spare so as to allow for on-time announcement
* topics will be announced within five minutes of the return of the last ballot for the preceding round

Only the tournament invitation, NPDA constitution and by-laws, NPDA national tournament procedures, and materials prepared during the 20 minute preparation time period prior to the round may be brought into the debating chambers. There are no restrictions on pre-round coaching or consultation of materials during the preparation period.

Public Forum

An open division of public forum debate will be offered. The public forum division will utilize the national public forum topic to be released in January. The topic will be announced on the IE-L and will also be announced on the Gorlok tournament page at forensictournament.net. Additional information can also be found at the public forum website, <http://www.wix.com/danwestohio/CollegePublicForum>

* 1. **Philosophy:** Public Forum focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution. Competitors in this team event advocate or reject a position posed by a resolution (prepared by the College Public Forum committee and distributed via the IE-L). The clash of idea must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge”, i.e. a member of the American jury. Public Forum should:
* **Display solid logic, lucid reasoning, and depth of analysis.**
* **Utilize evidence without being driven by it.**
* **Present a clash of ideas by countering/refuting arguments of the opposing team (rebuttal)**
* **Communicate ideas with civility, clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum.**
	1. This is not a debate event, per se, and as such, teams do not have prime facie burdens or the burden of rejoinder. Instead, teams are asked to advocate for (pro) or against (con) the ideas and policies represented within the resolution.
	2. Since this is not a debate event, in the traditional sense, teams are prohibited from utilizing plans (formalized comprehensive proposals for implementation), counterplans and kritiks (off-topic arguments). Multiple competitive venues exist for the application of these argumentative strategies.
	3. **Procedure and order of speeches:** Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results). Note: The round begins at the conclusion of the coin flip/sides/positions discussion. Contestants may not leave the room or consult with coaches after the coin flip, which begins the round.
* First Speaker – Team A 5 minutes
* First Speaker – Team B 5 minutes
* Crossfire (first question by speaker A1) 3 minutes
* Second Speaker – Team A 5 minutes
* Second Speaker – Team B 5 minutes
* Crossfire (first question by A2) 3 minutes
* Summary – First Speaker – Team A 3 minutes
* Summary – First Speaker – Team B 3 minutes
* Closing Arguments – Second Speaker – Team A 3 minutes
* Closing Arguments – Second Speaker – Team B 3 minutes
* Prep Time 2 minutes per team
	1. **Timing:** Judges and/or debaters should keep track of speaking time.
	2. **Plans/Counterplans:** In College Public Forum, neither side is permitted to offer a plan nor a counterplan (formalized comprehensive proposal for implementation). Instead, each team should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.

Warm-Room, Breaking Brackets, and Sexual Harassment

The Gorlok Gala will have a warm room available during the tournament, meaning results will be posted for all formats and divisions. The tournament will not break brackets for elimination rounds. The tournament will adhere to the NPDA statement on sexual harassment, as well as the Pi Kappa Delta Statement on Discrimination.

Elimination Rounds and Speaker Awards

Appropriate elimination rounds will be held in accordance with the standards of the national organizations sanctioning the respective debate divisions. Teams/Debaters advancing will be determined and seeded based on (1) win/loss record, (2) adjusted points, (3) total points, (4) double adjusted total points, and (5) opposition record. Brackets will not be broken. All winning records will advance in all divisions.

Speaker awards will be determined based on (1) adjusted points, (2) total points, (3) double adjusted points, (4) z-score, and (5) speaker ranks.

Power-Matching

Rounds will be power-matched beginning with round three. Rounds three and five will be hi/hi while four will be hi/low within brackets.

Cross-Entering

Students in Lincoln-Douglas may enter **only flight A individual events.** Students in public forum may **enter only one flight B individual event** and must compete in their individual event **first** if they advance to a conflicting elimination round. Students may not enter both Lincoln-Douglas and public forum debate.

***IMPORTANT DEBATE JUDGING NOTE:*** In addition to the obligation of the first elimination round after the point at which a school’s competitors are eliminated, all judges are obligated for the first ***full*** elimination round for all formats in which they have debaters. If partial elimination rounds are held and a judge is assigned to that round, s/he ***remains*** obligated for the next elimination round.

**Tournament Speech Statement**

The Gorlok Gala affirms the importance of all tournament participants’ cooperation in creating an educational and competitive environment that is fair, humane and responsible while, at the same time, encouraging debates that are devoted to full and robust argument about a diverse range of ideas. Specifically, this tournament affirms that:

1. Judges and students are encouraged to talk about the expectations that they have for creating a debate that

 focuses on ideas instead of personal attacks.

2. Debaters are encouraged to communicate with respect, not attacking each other or the judge.

3. Judges are encouraged to communicate with respect, not attacking or devaluing students.

4. Debaters and judges are encouraged to reject discourse which devalues other members of our community

 based on their race, age, gender, class, sexual or religious orientation, or any reason that is not directly

 related to the arguments that they present.

5. Students and judges are encouraged to communicate with each other when they observe instances of

 verbally aggressive attacks rather than silently watching something happen before them to which they

 object.

6. Judges are encouraged to reward courteous and respectful behavior toward the judge and other

 competitors in awarding speaker points.

7. If serious and/or repeated demeaning speech materially or substantially disrupts the opportunity for

 debaters to compete fairly or the judge to evaluate fairly, judges are encouraged to dock speaker points or

 give a team a loss.

Bartanen, K. & Hanson, J. (1994). Advocating humane discourse. *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta, 80*, 16-22.

***Webster Outstanding Forensic Alumni Award***

An annual award will be presented each year to an alumna of the Webster University forensic and debate program. The winner will be selected from a list of nominees submitted by any individual familiar with the Webster forensic program. Nominees should be past members of the Webster University forensic and debate program, and be committed to forensics as important life-preparation. This commitment should be a focus of any nomination for the award.

Nominations should include identification of the potential award winner, as well as a letter of support. There is no limit to the volume of support material that will be accepted in support of a single nomination.

**Congratulations to last year’s winner—Kim Runnion.**

**2013—Ryan Louis**

**2014—Deanna Beaton**

**2015—Jason Roach**

**2016—Kim Runnion**

***Community Forensic Citizenship Award***

An annual award will be presented each year to a non-student member of the forensic community who advances the benefits of forensics in the broadest of terms. This should include but is not limited to outstanding teaching/coaching and service.

Nominations should include an identification of the potential award winner as well as a letter of support. There is no limit to the volume of support material that will be accepted in support of a single nomination.

**Congratulations to last year’s winner—Phil Voigt, Gustavus Adolphus College)**

**2013—Robert Markstrom, McNeese State University**

**2014—John Boyer, Lafayette College**

**2015—Kevin Minch, Truman State University**

**2016—Phil Voigt, Gustavus Adolphus College**

***Nomination Procedures***

Nominations should be submitted to Gina Jensen at jensen@webster.edu. All nominations should be received by Monday, January 16, 2017 to receive full consideration. Community Forensic Citizenship Award nominating packets will be distributed to a reading committee of intercollegiate forensic educators. Webster Outstanding Forensic Alumni Award nominating packets will be distributed to a reading committee of Webster alumni, students, and non-forensic faculty. Both awards will be presented at the Gorlok awards ceremony.